UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/482
S/1999/1076
20 October 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 116 (c)
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 18 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Democratic Republic of Congo issued on 11 October 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Democratic Republic of Congo issued on 11 October 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

On 16 July 1999, the European Union expressed its willingness to support the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815, annex) provided that the parties themselves complied with the terms thereof. It again declares itself firmly resolved to support implementation of the agreement, in its various components, including the Joint Military Commission and the national dialogue, the peacekeeping operations by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, the reintegration of refugees and displaced people in their countries of origin and the process of democratization, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The European Union remains concerned at the slow pace at which the main provisions of the Lusaka Agreement are being applied and at which the bodies and mechanisms for implementing it are being established. It urges the parties to support this fragile peace process and to avoid returning to conflict.

The European Union welcomes the fact that the first meeting of the Joint Military Commission, a key element of the Lusaka Agreement, is to be held on 11 October 1999 and is considering the possibility of providing it with financial support as soon as it is able to function.